

PERSISTENT REFUSAL OF A THIRD TERM
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On November 19, 1907, he sent the following circular note to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Post Master General, and the Secretary of the Interior :

"I have been informed that certain office-holders in your Department are proposing to go to the National Convention as delegates in favor of renominating me for the Presidency, or are proposing to procure my endorsement for such renomination by State conventions. This must not be. I wish you to inform such officers as you may find it advisable or necessary to inform in order to carry out the spirit of this instruction, that such advocacy of my renomination, or acceptance of an election as delegate for that purpose, will be regarded as a serious violation of official propriety and will be dealt with accordingly."

In the midst of the third term discussion a decided sensation was created by the publication on April 5, 1907, of what appeared to be a well-authenticated report of an incident that had occurred at a private dinner at a hotel in Washington. According to this report a Eupublican United States Senator, noted for his intense hostility to the President, while under the mellowing influence of food and drink, had revealed the existence of a plot for the defeat of any candidate who might be named by Roosevelt, or who was known to share his views on public affairs. The plot was to be backed by a fund of \$5,000,000 which was to be used where "it would do the most good." "Favorite sons" were to be put forward to prevent any

particular candidate
from securing a nomination at the outset of
the balloting;
Eoosevelt was to be ostensibly favored in
Legislative reso-
lutions and by delegates with the belief that
he would re-
fuse to accept a nomination and delegates
professing to
favor him could be switched to the candidate
selected by
the plotters when the time arrived for putting
him forward.
There was an animated discussion of the plot
for a brief
period and then it passed from sight never to
be heard of
again. If it had ever existed, publicity had
made its suc-
cess impossible.